

**Amendment to the Claims**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A water treatment apparatus programmable pass key and a water treatment apparatus adapted to read the pass key when the pass key is in communication with the apparatus, the pass key being separable from the water treatment apparatus, the pass key comprising a data carrier programmed with one or more predetermined codes, each code relating to an operation in or of the water treatment apparatus.
2. (Currently amended) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 1 wherein the data carrier is programmable.
3. (Currently amended) A pass key and apparatus combination as ~~claims~~ claimed in claim 1 wherein the operation comprises one or more of filtration, sanitization and/or recirculation.
4. (Currently amended) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 1 wherein the water treatment apparatus has multiple access points.
5. (Currently amended) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 1 wherein the pass key includes a memory capacity and an ability to read/interrogate the water treatment apparatus and/or vice versa.
6. (Currently amended) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 5, wherein the pass key contains data relating to the water treatment apparatus, ~~such as validation information, process information and/or manufacturing information.~~
7. (Currently amended) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 1 wherein the pass key is time coded.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 8 1 wherein the apparatus is accessible in more than one location.

10. (Original) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 9, wherein the pass key includes electronic circuits which can communicate with electronic circuits within the water treatment apparatus.

11. (Currently amended) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 10, wherein said electronic circuits communicate via transmittable waveforms, ~~such as optical, electromagnetic or magnetic contacts.~~

12. (Original) A pass key as claimed in claim 10, wherein said electronic circuits communicate by physical contact.

13. (Currently amended) A method of operating a water treatment apparatus, wherein one or more operations of the water treatment apparatus are only operable by conjunction of a programmable pass key as ~~herein before defined~~ adapted to be read by the water treatment apparatus when the pass key is in communication with the water treatment apparatus, the pass key being separable from the water treatment apparatus, the pass key having a ~~or the~~ code adapted to operate the or each operation.

14. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the one or more operations comprise one or more of filtration, sanitization and/or recirculation.

15. (New) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 6, wherein the data includes at least one of validation information, process information and manufacturing information.

16. (New) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 11, wherein the transmittable waveforms are selected from a group consisting of optical, electromagnetic and magnetic contacts.

17. (New) A pass key and apparatus combination as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water treatment apparatus is configured so that the pass key can be connected, installed and/or fitted into the water treatment apparatus in order for the pass key to communicate with the water treatment apparatus.